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Agenda items 36 and 160

**Security Council**
**Fifty-eighth year**

**The situation in the Middle East**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

## Letter dated 12 May 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to draw your attention to the latest act of Palestinian terrorism perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

Early yesterday morning, 11 May, Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an Israeli vehicle travelling just north of Jerusalem. The driver, Zion David, was returning home to his family from morning prayers. Palestinian gunmen shot Mr. David in the head. As a result of this terrorist ambush, Mr. David was killed. Eyewitnesses reported that shots were fired from both sides of the road towards Mr. David's vehicle. The gunmen also fired at another Israeli vehicle but no one was injured.

Mr. David left a wife and six children. Palestinians wounded one of his children, Avraham, in a separate shooting attack in January 2001 near Atarot, north of Jerusalem.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which is aligned with Chairman Arafat's Fatah movement, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Palestinian terrorists have also increased their indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israeli communities. Shortly after the ambush attack, Palestinian terrorists in the northern part of the Gaza Strip fired three Kassam rockets at the Negev town of Sderot. Two of these rockets landed in an open area, and the third rocket hit near the Sa'ad junction. On Friday 9 May, five Kassam rockets were fired at Sderot, resulting in a six-year-old girl suffering wounds to her hands.

These latest terrorist attacks are merely another attempt by Palestinian terrorists to target Israeli citizens. The continuing daily threat of Palestinian terrorism, deliberately aimed at the citizens of Israel, underscores the absolute necessity of Israel's preventive security measures.

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Israel holds the Palestinian leadership fully responsible for its failure to suppress and ongoing support of the campaign of terrorism, which continues to endanger the lives of both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples. The fight against terrorism must be absolute, uncompromising and unrelenting. The aim is not to allow merely for a temporary cessation of terrorist activity, which would enable terrorist organizations to regroup and gather force, but the complete dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure, the arrest and prosecution of all terrorist operatives, and the confiscation and destruction of all illegal weapons.

Only once terrorism and incitement are fully and finally rejected as an acceptable tactic can we advance to a process of negotiations, which are the only means of achieving a genuine and lasting peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

I submit the present letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000, which document the criminal terrorist strategy for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Arye **Mekel**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Item 170 of the preliminary list*
**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Security Council**
**Fifty-eighth year**

## Letter dated 12 May 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the response of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the sections concerning my country in the 2002 report published by the Office of the Coordinator for Counter-terrorism on 30 April 2003.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, under the relevant agenda items.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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## Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Response of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to the report on "Patterns of Global Terrorism" published by the United States Department of State on 30 April 2003

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has examined the 2002 report on "Patterns of Global Terrorism" published on 30 April 2003 by the Office of the Coordinator for Counter-terrorism of the United States Department of State. It strongly regrets that the United States administration remains sceptical about Libya's position and the efforts it has undertaken to combat terrorism, despite acknowledging that Libya has assisted the United States in its war on terror and has taken practical steps to combat it, and in particular has ratified all the international conventions on combating terrorism.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has on a number of occasions categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, of which Libya has been the most prominent victim, and has contributed actively to international efforts to combat and eradicate it. Libya was the first State to call for a special session of the General Assembly or an international conference within the framework of that organization to investigate the phenomenon of terrorism and its causes, to give it a precise definition and to take appropriate measures to combat and eradicate it. The fact that Libya has implemented all the Security Council resolutions concerning international terrorism, and notably resolution 1373 (2001), having complied with the provisions thereof and submitted initial and supplementary reports to the Committee established pursuant to that resolution, constitutes further evidence of the extent of Libya's sustained cooperation in putting an end to this phenomenon, which is morally repugnant and inhumane and threatens the security of States and the lives and stability of peoples.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation is perplexed by the United States administration's insistence on claiming that Libya has failed to respond to the Security Council resolutions concerning the Lockerbie incident, because this claim is totally untrue and Libya has responded to all the demands made in these resolutions. This has repeatedly been highlighted by regional and international organizations on a number of different occasions; indeed, the Secretary-General clearly stated as much in his report submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 883 (1993).

Finally, the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation cannot but point out that the accusations made against some States and the classification of others as belonging to a certain category of "sponsors of terrorism" must cease, because these actions will do nothing to assist or promote the international campaign to eradicate this phenomenon. What is needed is for all States to concentrate their efforts on preventing and combating terrorism on the basis of the principles of international law and mutual respect; this will ensure that the common objective of development and stability for all peoples is attained, a

climate of mutual trust is created, and the foundations are laid for relations based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and common interests.

Secretariat of the General People's Committee for
Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

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## Letter dated 8 May 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) was established on 1 June 2000 with the Council's support following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan. In view of the important and positive role being played by UNTOP, I decided last May to extend the mandate of the Office for an additional period of one year, until 1 June 2003, and informed members of the Security Council accordingly. In September 2002, I appointed Vladimir Sotirov (Bulgaria) to serve as my Representative in the country and as head of UNTOP, replacing Ambassador Ivo Petrov (Bulgaria).

As provided for by the Office's terms of reference, UNTOP continued to focus its activities during the past year on the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation, promotion of the rule of law, strengthening of democratic institutions and support for national capacity-building in the area of human rights. A priority of UNTOP during the past year was the promotion of an open political environment in the country, which could contribute to further consolidation of the peace process.

UNTOP has actively promoted a process of national reconciliation and consolidation of peace and stability in Tajikistan. In pursuit of those objectives, during the past year UNTOP continued a series of Political Discussion Club meetings, held in all provinces of the country. Each of the meetings was attended by representatives of the central Government, heads of local administrations, leaders of political parties and representatives of law enforcement bodies, the business community, civil society and mass media. The meetings of the Club focused on issues of national reconciliation, good governance, economic reform, improvement of the electoral system, democratization of the society and promotion of human rights. Several of the resulting recommendations have been implemented. During the past two years, the club meetings have become events of national political importance and a catalyst for national reconciliation.

The Office has continued to maintain close contacts with the parties to the 1997 General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. UNTOP's facilitation has helped to avoid developments that could endanger the still fragile political stability in the country.

During the past year the Office played an important role in strengthening the rule of law in Tajikistan. With the financial assistance of the Government of Germany, UNTOP helped to establish a forensic laboratory for the Ministry of Interior and organized the training of its personnel.

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The Office continued its support for the social integration of ex-combatants and demobilized contractual soldiers through assistance provided for their vocational training. During the past year 270 ex-combatants received training in the centre, 215 of whom have been successfully employed.

As part of national capacity-building in the judicial sector, the Office, with the valuable assistance of Slovakia, organized a familiarization and study visit to Slovakia for a group of senior officials from the Supreme and Constitutional Courts and the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Security. Subsequently, the members of the delegation introduced important innovations to the functioning of their respective institutions.

During the past year the Office has accelerated its multifaceted activities in the promotion of human rights. UNTOP facilitated the establishment of a national governmental commission on human rights treaty reporting, which has successfully commenced its work. As part of human rights education activities UNTOP has established, in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan, the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre and is publishing a monthly human rights newspaper (which comes out as an attachment to the national Teachers' Gazette). The Office has organized several training courses and seminars in human rights for university professors, prosecutors, criminal investigators, attorneys and high school teachers. UNTOP is planning to further expand its projects on human rights education and promotion, building on support from the Government, civil society and international donors.

The process of post-conflict peace-building and consolidation of stability in Tajikistan has come a long way. At the same time, a multiplicity of problems related to the civil war, including the high unemployment rate among ex-combatants, the spread of small arms among civilians, drug trafficking and the resurgence of extremist organizations, such as Hizb-ut-Tahrir, make the political equilibrium of the country fragile. Under these circumstances, the holding of free, fair and non-violent general elections in 2005 would be an important objective and an indicator of UNTOP's achievement of its goals.

In view of the important and very positive role being played by UNTOP, as well as the country's continuing need for support in its post-conflict peace-building efforts, and with the concurrence of the Government of Tajikistan, it is my intention to continue the activities of UNTOP for a further period of one year, until 1 June 2004.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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## Letter dated 13 May 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 8 May 2003 (S/2003/542) concerning your intention to continue the activities of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) for a further period of one year, until 1 June 2004, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note with appreciation of your intention and of the information contained therein.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
President of the Security Council

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